

A graduate of Ferris High School, Catherine Todd is also an alumnus of Hudson County Community College.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Catherine Todd for her years of distinguished service on behalf of public housing residents in Hudson County, New Jersey.

HONORING FREDERICK P. AGUIRRE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an outstanding citizen of Orange County, Mr. Frederick P. Aguirre who has recently been honored by Orange County's United Way for his outstanding service in education to the Latino community. Mr. Aguirre has a strong sense of civic duty and is dedicated to the Latino community, to our country's veterans, and to education.

A graduate of UCLA Law School, he is a co-founder of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County. Currently, he serves on the Hispanic Advisory Committee of the Orange County District Attorney's office.

His support for education spans across all levels. He was a mentor through the "Stay in School Program" that provides tutoring to at-risk students in the Santa Ana Unified School District. He has been a speaker at elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and at several colleges. He re-established the Placentia chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a group that provides scholarships for Hispanic youth and encourages civic participation through citizenship classes and voting. In 1994, he became a member of the Corporate Development committee of the Hispanic Education Endowment Fund. In addition, he organized and re-incorporated Latino Advocates for Education, Inc. a nonprofit organization that promotes educational excellence among our Latino students and increases quality instruction and administration in schools.

His exemplary achievements in the community are also noteworthy. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association of Orange County, he founded the Multi Ethnic Community Advisory Board. He was also a member and Chairman of the Board of the Community Advisory Board of Placentia Linda Hospital. In 1994, he organized a program offering free legal services at the Cathy Torrez Learning Center in Placentia.

In addition, he has been active in recognizing U.S. veterans. Since 1998, he has organized a Veteran's Day conference at Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, CA. These events have grown in scope each year. The most recent, the 5th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration and Scholarship Program, honored over 100 living Mexican-American World War II veterans and their families. Over 3,000 people attended, including Governor Gray Davis.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Frederick P. Aguirre for his outstanding service to the Orange County community, to education and to the Latino community. His efforts have truly touched people's lives and have had a positive impact on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE PHYSICIANS, NURSES, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fine work of the physicians, nurses and other health care providers at Inova Fairfax Hospital in response to the recent cases of inhalation anthrax that befell workers at the Brentwood postal facility. Two employees of this facility, Mr. Leroy Richmond and an unnamed colleague, sought treatment at Inova Fairfax for what ultimately proved to be inhalation anthrax. For both gentlemen, the close attention and astute diagnoses of Drs. Cecele Murphy and Susan Bersoff-Matcha were literally the difference between life and death.

Physicians, nurses and other health care providers represent the difference between life and death for many, many patients with myriad conditions every day. What was special about this instance was that both doctors were dealing with a rare disease that affords little, if any, room for error. Early diagnosis of anthrax is essential in giving a patient the chance to survive—a task made all the more difficult because early symptoms of anthrax are not easily distinguishable from the flu or other common maladies. In addition, at the point when Mr. Richmond presented at the emergency room, the extent to which postal workers were at risk for exposure was not fully understood. Cast against a backdrop of profound public fear, with numerous worried patients believing they displayed signs of anthrax, the actions of Drs. Murphy and Bersoff-Matcha are all the more impressive.

Quick and accurate decisions such as those made by Dr. Murphy, Dr. Bersoff-Matcha, the nurses and staff of Inova Fairfax Hospital will be required to minimize casualties in any future bioterrorism attacks. In the anthrax attacks—the first biological assault of our new war on terrorism—these individuals have provided an outstanding example for others to follow.

TRIBUTE TO FLAGLER FFA AGRONOMY TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Flagler, Colorado chapter of the Future Farmers of America. The Flagler team recently attended the 74th National FFA Convention and placed fifth in the Agronomy Career Development competition.

The members of the team—Jake Michal, Nathan McCaffrey, Kyle Einspahr, BJ New, and David Wieser—were the first representatives from Colorado to compete in this event. Despite being newcomers to the competition, the team was able to persevere with an outstanding finish at this year's convention.

The FFA is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by de-

veloping their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. With a 74-year history, the FFA has been an integral part in continuing America's great tradition as a leader in agriculture production.

The Flagler chapter of the Future Farmers of America is a source of pride for the community of Flagler and all people of Colorado. The team has shown great strength and fortitude by placing in the top five of all teams competing. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to the Flagler chapter of the Future Farmers of America team.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROSE BELLANCA
"2001 WOMAN OF THE YEAR" COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, each year the Italian American community celebrates Columbus Day, with festivities including a weekend of food, music, and fun, as well as an annual Columbus Day Parade and Banquet. With organizations and committees dedicated to promoting and preserving the Italian-American heritage through language, culture, music, and social events, the Columbus Day Committee is no exception. Honoring distinguished Italian-Americans who have shown outstanding service in their local communities, each year the Columbus Day Committee selects individuals who demonstrate these qualities. On Sunday, October 7, as the families and friends gathered together at their annual Columbus Day Banquet, they recognized Dr. Rose Bellanca their "2001 Woman of the Year".

Demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment to her students, her colleagues, and her community, Dr. Rose Bellanca has always been an active and enthusiastic supporter of education and advancement. Beginning her teaching career in 1973 at Fitzgerald High School in Macomb County, a short nine years later she was the first woman serving as the Director of Vocational-Technical Education in Macomb County while working for the Chippewa Valley School District. Her hard work and relentless pursuit for excellence in education led her to become Assistant to the President of Macomb Community College, where she served as Interim Vice President for Student and Community Relations and later Vice President for Planning and Development. Today, as Provost of Macomb Community College, her strong focus on students continues to be her priority, and her hard work and innovative ideas continue to make her a leader in educational advancement.

Faithfully committed to promoting her Italian American heritage as well, Dr. Bellanca is also an active member of the American Italian Professional and Business Women's Club and the Americans of Italian Origin Society. She has received the Macomb County Woman of Distinction Award by the Girl Scouts of Macomb County, as she is truly a role model for young women and young Italian American women. A devoted mother and wife of 30 years, a professional, and a friend, Dr. Bellanca truly is this year's "Woman of the Year".